A

NARRATIVE

OF

AFFAIRS

Lately received from his MAJESTIES

Iſland of Jamaica:

VIZ.

I. His Excellency the Governour Sir *Thomas Linch*'s Speech to the Aſſembly met *Sept.* 21. 1682.

II. *Samuel Bernard* Eſq; Speaker of the ſaid Aſſembly, his Speech to the Governour.

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Printed for *Randal Taylor*, near Stationers Hall. 1683.

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LONDON:
Printed for Randal Taylor, near Stationers Hall. 1689.

A NARRATIVE OF Affairs from Jamaica.

His Excellency Sir *Tho. Linch*, Governour in *Jamaica*, his Speech at the convening an Assembly (at St. *Jago de la Vega*) in *Jamaica*, *Sept.* 21. 1682.

GENTLEMEN,

SI expect you should not do much, so I suppose you may imagine I should say but little; the posture of our Affairs does not require it, nor will the disorders of my head permit it: However, I must tell you, The Council and I have convened you by the directions of your own Act, that enjoyns your annual Meeting and Sitting ten days; otherwise it's probable we had not given you this trouble now.

Whatever may be said, I must profess I am glad of the occasion of seeing so many of my good Friends together; but withal, I do assure you, it's not that Consideration made me continue this Assembly: for, to be plain, if I believe you knew (in October *when the Laws past) that my Lord C. was removed, I must needs conclude, you were neither partial to me as the King's Governour, nor very kind as your Friend; and who reflects on it now, will say so.*

But the reason that induced the Council and me to continue this, rather than call another Assembly, is, we think the Country eased by it; and that they cannot visibly make a worthier Choice: for it's you, Gentlemen, have made these Laws, that we hope will be a Magna Charta *to us and our Children, as well as a Boundary to me and all future Governours. And if there be any thing to be added or retrenched to make them pass at home, we judge it's fit you do it; that you who have had the charge and trouble of raising this great Structure, should have the thanks and glory of finishing it.*

I suppose, Gentlemen, no body will enter into Disputes about the Legality

of this Assembly; for the Lords at home say it is lawful: And then you all know you are called by the King's Writ, so not dissolved by change of a Governour, no more than Parliaments in England *and* Ireland *are by the death or removal of Lieutenants or Chancellors.*

I need not have said this, Gentlemen: for I know you are too wise to enter into Disputes about Niceties; and do consider, that as the King and his Ministers intend we shall have all those just Liberties and Freedoms that belong to English-men and good Subjects, so our reflecting on things that are not pertinent, or reviving those detestable names of Caballers, Prerogative, and Property-men, may give them offence, and that will make us uneasie; and as it will be troublesome now, so may it be ruinous hereafter: for common Sense tells us, We should not kick against the Pricks; *and the wise man,* That it's madness to contend with those that are too mighty: *And indeed the Contest must be fatal, where it is so unequal as to have Power and Right too on the same side.*

Though I cannot, Gentlemen, speak any thing directly from our Lords about the Laws, yet I shall take the liberty to say this from my self, that if it's of the utmost import our Laws pass, it may be fit for you to consider now whether they will or no; and if you judge they will not, then resolve of removing the Obstructions. This conjuncture is favourable, and may give more encouragement than can be expected next year, when I shall be foreclosed all Concessions by positive Orders and the Laws determination.

Pray, Gentlemen, consider how much better it is to go voluntarily a step or two back, than run the hazard of being driven God knows how far. I shall explain my self, if you enter into debate of this matter; if not, it must lie at your door: for it's you must answer to this, and it may be future Ages, the losing another opportunity of establishing the Peace and Laws of this great and prosperous Colony.

I beg you, Gentlemen, to believe, that herein I sollicit not my own Concern: for God hath been pleased to give me a moderate Estate, and the King a competent Salary, that I am sure to be paid here or in England; *so I neither need nor desire any thing from you: I onely beg we may do our selves the right to pay the Duty, Submission, and Gratitude we all owe the King as our Soveraign Lord and great Benefactor; and that for our Peace and Interest sake, we let no factious or scrupulous Spirits insinuate any thing that may make us mistrust a just Prince, and prudent Ministers: Such is the King, such are those Lords that govern us under him. Do we not know the bitterest Enemy his Majesty (or which is worse, Monarchy it self) has, cannot say he ever took the least thing from the meanest Subject by violence, or contrary to Law? And if he has ever erred, has it been in any thing but in the excess of his Bounty and Mercies? Can Faction, Malice, or Impudence it self then suggest, that such a Prince should violate the Laws, to take from a young and needy Colony the Revenue himself gives, and commands to be raised for the support of their own Government, and that at a time he has appointed us an Auditor-General, a particular Office to see it's not misapplied? Nor is it possible it should, so long as your Act exists; and that every one of you knows, and I positively affirm. But pray pardon me; for I am assured, Thoughts so criminal, and Jealousies so unreasonable, are far*

from

from every one of us; nor can they lodge in any breaſt but ſuch as have baniſht that Loyalty and Reverence that is due to Majeſty and Truth.

I call God to record, I knew of no deſigne to injure or invade your juſt Liberties, nor have I other Inſtructions than to do right, and govern according to the Laws of England *and this Iſland. I appeal to you all, if you do not know I did not ſo, to the beſt of my underſtanding, when I had the honour to command here before. I muſt tell you, it's my opinion, it was that Conſideration and your Satisfaction, made the King and his Miniſters to ſend me again, that all thoſe Paſſions that have ſo long agitated you, might be calmed, and every thing that gave you ombrage, removed.*

Believe me therefore, Gentlemen, ſhould our Sins, Caprice, or Follies, make us miſs that Port that now frankly offers it ſelf, and launch into the deep of needleſs Jealouſies and Diſputes, it's to be fear'd we may find it a wide Sea of Confuſion, where we ſhall not eſcape Shipwrack without a Miracle; the apprehenſion of which ſo diſcompoſes me, that I cannot ſay more than God have mercy on us, and direct you.

Samuel Barnard Eſq; Speaker of the Aſſembly, his Speech to the Governour, *Sept.* 21. 1682.

May it pleaſe your Excellency,

TO confirm their own Judgment, the Aſſembly are pleaſed to continue me their Speaker; and that I take likewiſe to be the reaſon that prevails with you to approve their Choice. I ſhall not preſume, Sir, to be tedious: however, we do in all humility acknowledge the frequent and ample Teſtimonies of his moſt Sacred Majeſties repeated Favours, whoſe goodneſs, like the Sun extends to the utmoſt corners of his Dominions; and eſpecially for this laſt and moſt ſignal one in returning your Excellency to us, thereby demonſtrating your Government to be both to his ſatisfaction, and that of all his ſubjects here; who ſhall always preſerve their Loyalty entire to him, and of conſequence their Obedience to your Excellency his immediate Miniſter: and that however repreſented, we can never believe any diſtinction between the King's intereſt and the Peoples; for indeed whoever preaches up that Deſtructive Poſition, doth from an ill diviſion of an ill choſen Text, deduce worſe Doctrine.

The uncertainties and difficulties, under which for ſome years paſt we have laboured, have been very great: I am willing to touch on that no farther than to ſay, being impartially weighed, it can never be reaſonably imagined we had any other deſigne but to continue under our old form of Government, which his Majeſty had been pleaſed to conſtitute at firſt, as near that of his Realm of England, *as ſo great a Volume could be compriſed in ſo ſmall an Epitome, and to preſerve the quiet fruition of thoſe Eſtates which our own induſtry (bleſt be divine Providence) had acquired, under the ſame method of making Laws, as is obſerved in our Native Country, from which, as the famous Roman ſaith, there is deſended, a greater Inheritance to us, than*

 from

from our Parents. A truth I may ſay, without offence, verified in the major part of the Inhabitants of this Iſland.

The whole matter of this then being ſeriouſly conſidered to be done upon theſe ends onely, if we may not preſume to merit or lay claim to, yet from ſo great a goodneſs, as that of his moſt Gracious Majeſty, I doubt not but we may certainly hope for pardon.

I have now onely to add in behalf of theſe Gentlemen, humbly to crave the preſervation of their uſual Priviledges, freedom of Debate, and acceſs to your Perſon, and in particular your Excellencies pardon of the inadvertancies of me their Speaker, beſeeching you to deem them Errours of Judgement, not will.

His Majeſties Council and the Gentlemen of the Aſſembly for his Iſland of Jamaica, *being met at St.* Jago de la Vega *the* 21th *day of* September 1682. *by order of his Excellency the Governour Sir* Tho. Linch, *humbly beſeech the Lord Preſident and Lords of his Majeſties moſt Honourable Privy-Council, for governing his Majeſties Foreign Plantations, to preſent to his moſt Sacred Majeſty this their moſt humble Addreſs.*

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

HAving received more frequent Teſtimonies of your Royal Grace and Bounty, than others of your Subjects, we ought to have been the firſt to have made profeſſion of our Loyalty and Gratitude to your Sacred Majeſty; but the unſettledneſs of our Affairs, and that vaſt diſtance we are at from your Kingdom of *England*, may move your Majeſty (the beſt of Kings) to pardon the omition, and accept a late but hearty and humble tender of our Duty.

Dread Sir,

We do (as we have the greateſt reaſon in the world for it) bleſs God and moſt humbly thank your Majeſty, for your Care in protecting us, for your Grace and Juſtice in aſſimulating our Government to that of our Native Country of *England*, for your Majeſties favour in ordering us ſupplies of Negroes at reaſonable rates, and for thoſe many repeated Acts of Grace, Juſtice, Bounty, and Protection which your Majeſty hath been pleaſed to confer upon us and this your great and flouriſhing Iſland.

S I R,

To evidence in ſome meaſure our Thankfulneſs and Duty, we moſt humbly preſent to your Majeſty an Act of Revenue, formed by advice of our preſent Governour, which with our former body of Laws, we hope quadrates with thoſe Orders and Directions, the Lords of your Majeſties

Privy

Privy-Council ſent hither: We proſtrate them, and our ſelves at your Majeſties Royal feet, humbly beſeeching your Majeſty will be pleaſed graciouſly to paſs them, conſidering how much the eſtabliſhing of known Laws, will contribute to the ſatisfaction of your Subjects, and proſperity of this your Majeſties Iſland.

Dread Soveraign,

Although we are the remoteſt of all your Subjects from your Royal Throne, yet have we (to our great trouble) underſtood there may have been deſignes to ſubvert and ſhake it; and that ſome would have impoſed on your Majeſty, others altered the Succeſſion and ſecluded your Royal Brother, and in order to that or worſe ends would have entered into Aſſociation: All which we utterly deteſt, and humbly beſeech your Majeſty to believe, that we ſhall always obey your Commands, dutifully revere your Perſon, faithfully ſupport your Majeſties Government and lawful Succeſſion, to the utmoſt of our power; the long and happy continuance whereof, both in Church and State, we heartily pray for.

By order of the Council ſigned this 6th *day of* Oct. 1682.
Rowland Powell, *Cl. Council.*

By order of the Aſſembly,
Sam. Barnard, *Speaker.*

The Governour's Speech at proroguing the Aſſembly from *Octob.* the 4th 1682. to *May* the 4th 1683.

Gentlemen,

YOu may believe the diſorders of my Head, and misfortunes of my Voyage, are ſomething alleviated, by the joy I have to ſee this Seſſion ſo happily and ſuddenly ended; though God has been pleaſed to confer on me many great and ſignal Bleſſings, yet none of them methinks ever reliſht like this, nor is it reaſonable they ſhould: they have been particular, and concerned my ſelf onely. This is publick, and may, I hope, reach White-hall, *and affect not onely us here, but every individual man in this great Iſland, and thoſe that ſhall ſucceed us in it.*

We have, Gentlemen, fluctuated many years between Fears and Jealouſies among our ſelves, and of our Governours, which has occaſioned angry diſputes here, that have rather enlarged, than cemented the Breach.

Like ill Sculptures, ſome would have made the Head too big, as others the Members, neither of them conſidering that the perfection and beauty of the Figure conſiſts in the ſymetry and due proportion of the parts: for it's in the Body Politick as in the Natural; if the Head attracts too much nouriſhment, the Members become debile and weak; if the Body does it, the Head will be rendred incapable of exerciſing the Divine Function lodg'd in it.

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But you, Gentlemen, like good Subjects and wise Patriots, have duly weighed this, and considered there's a Duty to be paid a Prince, as well as a Care to be taken of our selves; and that we cannot express our Duty better than in trusting his Majesty; we need not fear to do it, since he has merited so much from us; and that it is certain our Prosperity is his true Interest: for Colonies that do not thrive, are like Scabs, they render nothing to, but draw nourishment from the Body.

We that were of the old Army, thankfully remember the Donative his Majesty gave us: All of us know, he has constantly sent us Supplies in our need, Ships to defend us in our danger; when we could not, he paid our Ministers, & gave Salaries to our Governours and others, allowed Money for our Fortifications, and now gives and permits his Rents to be appropriated to the Charge and Support of our Government: this and much more his Majesty hath done for us, and to make this Care, this Munificence, like himself, perfectly gracious, perfectly obliging. It was done for us here, in those times his Majesty was under the greatest Pressures and Wants at home.

You, Gentlemen, have dutifully and gratefully acknowledged this by separating your Laws from his Revenue, and by that frank, hearty, and humble submission you make of all, to his Majesties Justice and Grace. I am sure you'll find the advantage of it, and that there's no other method of transacting with Princes: for there is no parity betwixt us and them, they cannot be bound; they must therefore be trusted. And this confidence (were it lawful to make the Comparison) I durst say must necessarily have the same effect on the King, as our Faith has on God, if we believe, he will do us good.

There's no other way to retrieve the good opinion of our Lords at home, to be setled and united among our selves, and to establish that Credit abroad that may bring People and Trade to us. If we should continue at variance among our selves, or have contest with our Prince and Governours, who would love Jamaica *(though it has so many Charms) or stay in it though it has so many Advantages if one could but breath any where else? Does not every one know what influence Agreement and Peace have on mens minds and fortunes? which is the reason, Morality, as well as our Reason, bids us* pursue Peace with all men.

If Peace, Gentlemen, be of this import, that it's to be pursued as a summum bonum, *what do we all owe to you, that have thus overtaken it, and thus establisht it among us? Surely since Heaven is best described by saying it is the* place of Peace and Union, *you that have brought down and establisht, and fixed such a Resemblance of it here, ought to expect and have all our Praises, all our Thanks, and every man of you, is sure of all the Services I can ever render him.*

God I hope will give to you, all those Blessings in your fortunes, in your minds, and in your persons, promised to Peace-makers; and to us those that are the consequences of Peace and Union it self.

FINIS.